



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2018

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

(312) 744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

**MAYOR EMANUEL INTRODUCES ORDINANCES TO COMPLETE WELLS-WENTWORTH PROJECT
AND IMPROVE CONNECTION BETWEEN SOUTH LOOP AND CHINATOWN**

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today introduced two ordinances to the Chicago City Council to allow construction on the third and final phase of the Wells-Wentworth Connector project that will provide a direct link between the South Loop and Chinatown.

"By moving forward with the final phase of the Wells-Wentworth project we are improving connectivity in the near South Side, which lays the foundation for more jobs, continued economic growth and an improved quality of life for local residents," Mayor Emanuel said.

The ordinances introduced today allow for vacation of property in the area and authorizes the City to enter into an agreement that allows the conveyance of property and modification of easements with the St. Charles Airline and Illinois Central Railroad Company railroads and the Chicago Park District.

When completed, the new roadway will extend Wells Street south from Roosevelt Road through the recently announced "The 78" project and connect to a new section of Wentworth at 16th Street on the north side of Chinatown.

The Wells-Wentworth project has been coordinated by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD).

Phase I of the project was completed in 2017 and reconstructed Wentworth Avenue between 17th and 19th Streets, adding a buffered bike lane and improving pedestrian and bicycle access to the Ping Tom Memorial Park Fieldhouse.

Phase 2 will begin this summer and will realign Wentworth Avenue between Archer Avenue and Cermak Road to bring Wentworth north of Cermak in line with the portion of Wentworth south of Cermak. The realignment will improve safety for both pedestrians and motorists, while creating better pedestrian connectivity between New Chinatown Square and the traditional Chinatown south of Cermak Road.

###